

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

NANCY LOUISE GRUBB SIMPSON

September 27, 1967



Nancy Louise Grubb Simpson was born on February 17, 1945, in Annapolis, Maryland. Her father, Clarence Arthur Grubb, was a civil engineer in the U.S. Navy, and her mother, Myrtle Clarice (Hanson) Grubb, was a homemaker. Both of her parents were originally from Idaho. As a young child, she moved many times as her father transferred from one military base to another. As a result, Simpson attended elementary school in Lafayette and San Mateo, California, Falls Church, Virginia, Boise, Idaho, Guam, M.I., and Whitehouse, Florida; junior high school in Jacksonville, Florida, and Lemon Grove, California; and high school in Spring Valley, California. She graduated from Mt. Miguel High School in 1961, a year ahead of schedule at the age of 16.

After high school Simpson attended the University of Hawaii for a year. The following summer of 1962 found her working as a typist for the Department of Defense (Navy) in Washington, D.C., and, during that time, she decided to return to Idaho and transfer to the University of Idaho. In 1962 she did just that and began studying social science. Simpson excelled academically at UI, making the dean's list repeatedly, and also became very active in student affairs, including Delta Sigma Rho (an honorary society for debate), Pi Gamma Mu (honorary society for social science majors), a member and treasurer of Pi Beta Phi fraternity, and a member of the Social Area of the Activities Council for student government.

As she did in high school, Simpson graduated *cum laude* from college in 1964 after just three years. She immediately began her law studies at the University of Idaho College of Law. While in law school, on February 7, 1965, she married Torlof Peter Nelson, but divorced him only a year later. Simpson continued her study of law, working for a lawyer in California during the summer of 1966 and as an assistant in the law library during her third year. Simpson graduated with her law degree from UI in 1967 and moved to her parents' home in Los Altos, California.

On September 27, 1967, Simpson was admitted to practice in Idaho and went to work for the federal government in California. Shortly thereafter, on January 9, 1969, Simpson was admitted to practice in California and moved to Larkspur, California, resigning her active license in Idaho the following year. In 2001, Simpson resigned her active license in California and moved to La Conner, Washington.